

Red Flag Fire Alert

from the SC Forestry Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SC Forestry Commission extending Red Flag Fire Alert through Friday

SCFC urges vigilance when burning, making notification, taking proper precautions

COLUMBIA—The South Carolina Forestry Commission is extending its statewide Red Flag Fire Alert through Friday, April 23.

The alert will remain in place to discourage people from burning outdoors while the weather conditions continue to present an elevated risk of wildfire.

The relative humidity will not increase to normal levels overnight, which can lead to drier fuels and earlier ignitions the following day. This persisting low relative humidity creates a greater-than-average potential for outdoor fires to escape easily and spread rapidly. The alert is likely to be lifted after Friday when heavy precipitation is expected across the state Saturday.

“During the first two days of this Red Flag Fire Alert, we’ve had more than 70 wildfire ignitions in all corners of the state, so we really want to drive home the danger to people who may still be considering burning outdoors,” said SCFC Fire Chief Darryl Jones.

A Red Flag Fire Alert does not prohibit outdoor burning, provided that all other state and local regulations are followed, but the Forestry Commission strongly encourages citizens to voluntarily postpone any such burning until the alert is lifted. However, a Red Flag Fire Alert does trigger certain county or local ordinances that restrict outdoor fires, so residents should contact their local fire departments to check whether such restrictions apply in their areas.

The alert will remain in effect until lifted by the Commission, whose fire managers will continuously monitor the situation.

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As the only state agency responsible for wildfire suppression in all unincorporated areas of the state, the South Carolina Forestry Commission protects 13.6 million acres from wildland fire. More than 500 county, municipal and volunteer fire departments operate more than 1,100 fire stations in South Carolina. The Forestry Commission cooperates with these departments to prevent and control structural and wildland fires, employing highly trained firefighters and specialized equipment when fires burn into forested areas that are difficult to reach.

Did you know...?

An astounding 98 percent of all wildland fires are caused by human activities, and escaped debris burns are responsible for nearly 50 percent of them. South Carolina Forestry Commission firefighters respond to an average of 2,500 wildland fires every year, burning about 18,000 acres annually.

Want to see all the active wildfires in the state in real time?

Please visit the Forestry Commission's [GIS-based wildfire tracking web page](#) or download our agency's free wildfire smartphone app by typing "South Carolina Forestry Commission" in your phone system's app store.